

Royal Canadian Mounted Police | Gendarmerie royale du Canada

INTELLIGENCE AND IDEOLOGICALLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENT EXTREMISM

RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- The RCMP continues to work closely with domestic and international law enforcement partners as well as the security and intelligence community to analyze and assess criminal threats and activities.
- The RCMP investigates persons who are suspected of being engaged in criminal activity, including offences related to terrorist entities, under the National Security and Terrorism mandate. Our investigations target criminal activity of any individual(s) who threaten the safety and security of Canadians.
- We maintain close partnerships with CSIS and other domestic and international security and intelligence agencies, and engage in tactical information sharing with foreign partners to counter IMVE threats.
- Given there is often overlap between hate-motivated crimes and IMVE-related criminality, the RCMP works closely with police of jurisdiction to identify criminal threats of national security interest and conduct coordinated investigations.
- Rest assured, we will respond, with our partners, in an appropriate manner based on what our intelligence tells us.

Question: What did the RCMP see going into the blockades?

Answer:

- At this time, I am not able to release any specifics related to any ongoing investigations.
- That said, I can assure you that the RCMP continues to maintain situational awareness of the threat environment with due regard for any threats with potential national-level public safety implications.
- In terms of what we've been seeing over the past several months, from a law enforcement perspective, we have noted, across the country, an escalation of tensions and public opposition to federal and provincial government responses to the current pandemic.

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N.B.: The Committee can request a copy of all witness materials brought into the Committee room. Ensure there are no references to Cabinet Confidences or other classified or sensitive information. Additionally, binders prepared for the Commissioner's appearances at Parliamentary Committees are proactively disclosed.

- Much of the public opposition has manifested itself in a lawful manner, however, we have seen instances of criminal activity and have taken appropriate enforcement action in those situations.

Question: Has the RCMP seen any indication of IMVE or extremists?

Answer:

- The RCMP takes the threat from Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremists very seriously.
- We are aware that IMVE groups are present and have supporters in Canada.
- We also recognize that individuals who are motivated to commit violence may be previously unknown to law enforcement.
- In terms of ideologically motivated extremism, the RCMP and domestic partners continue to investigate certain individuals and groups who have been using the COVID-19 pandemic to spread propaganda, exacerbate social tensions, encourage criminal or violent actions, and undermine trust in public institutions and government.
- While I cannot comment on any operational matters or provide details on specific investigative targets, I can say that, collectively, we have robust measures in place to detect and disrupt threats to public safety or Canada's national security posed by IMVE threat actors.
- The RCMP will investigate and, wherever possible, lay criminal charges against individuals who seek to carry out acts of violence.

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